

IUFOPRA INFORMATION NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Volume 2. Issue 3. May/June/July - 1996:

DEEP SPACE TRAWLERS SEEK OUT ALIEN SIGNALS.

Recently a switch was thrown, at a radio telescope, operated by one of America's oldest universities, to start on of the most intensive searches ever for Alien life. Astronomers at Harvard University's Oak Ridge Observatory in Massachusetts will spend the next five years mapping most of the sky to find tell-tale signs of aliens from their radio transmissions. The project, known as the Billion-channel Extra-Terrestrial Assay (BETA), is privately funded; all official funding to hunt for our astral neighbours has been axed on cost grounds. The search will focus on a quiet corner of the radio spectrum known as the 'waterhole' - centered on the frequency at which hydrogen naturally vibrates. 'Hydrogen is the most abundant atom in the universe', said Jonath Weintroub, of Harvard's physics department. 'We are going to be looking at a wider portion of the spectrum than ever before'. The reasoning is that any advanced civilizations would know about this quiet region and would send out a beacon, like a radio version of a lighthouse, which would be recognised as alien in origin by other advanced civilizations - us for example. After beginning its own radio search in October 1992, NASA was forced by Congress to halt the project a year later. Said one scornful Congressman at the time: 'We don't need to spend millions to find these rascally creatures. We need only 75 cents to buy a tabloid at the local supermarket'. Now the Planetary Society, the world's largest space interest group, and a handful of companies have stepped in with the \$250,000 needed to fund the search for five years. Beta is the big brother of an earlier radio astronomy detector which could scan just under a million frequencies every two seconds. Beta has nearly 30 times this capacity and has much 'smarter' electronics at its heart. In eight years of continuous operation, Beta's predecessor recorded 37 signals which were unusual enough to be considered as possibly alien. According to Mr Weintroub, they were later found to be 'echoes' from within the electronics. Beta's more advanced

electronics can automatically screen out such glitches. A greater problem is the encroachment of man-made signals. 'We are looking for a very faint signal which is very attenuated by the time it will reach us', Mr Weintroub explained. 'More and more, we are being drowned out by signals from radar, cellular phones and aircraft. So we have a third antenna that allows us to eliminate these signals'. The Harvard team believes Beta will have a good chance of detecting signals from the estimated 400 billion stars in our own galaxy, the Milky Way. 'People have talked about the probabilities for many years now', Mr Weintroub said. "But we won't know until we look" But a few little snags remain. First, the early searches indicated that there appear to be no signals emanating from any stars closer than 25 light years - the vast distance covered in 25 years by a light wave (or indeed a radio signal) travelling at 186,000 miles per second. If we did pick up a signal, the civilisation that once produced it might have died out thousands of years ago. Our answer would take similar millennia to get back to the aliens. Second, who is to say that, being thoroughly civilised, our alien friends may not have been forced by their public spending cuts to switch off their receivers too? And third, we blithely assume that any civilisation worth its salt will be frantically signalling its existence to the rest of the galaxy - yet our civilisation is doing no such thing. The only organised signalling session from Earth was put together over a few days in 1975 by students at the Cornell University in New York state. Blink, and any alien astronomer would have missed it. There has, however, been plenty of disorganised signalling in the form of tv programmes beaming their way across the galaxy. Which brings us to the fourth snag: aliens assessing our civilisation by watching re-runs of I Love Lucy and Blankety Blank might decide against calling back

Article by Nicholas Booth. SOURCE: An English Newspaper - title unknown.

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FUEL BURNING IS 'hotting up planet'.

Scientists claim the burning of fossil fuels is warming up the Earth. This is based on reports which show that the average temperature of the Earth's surface reached a record in 1995. The information comes from two separate reports, one from Britain and the other from the United States, according to the New York Times. The British data says the average temperature in 1995 was 14.84 degrees centigrade and the US study put the average temperature at 14.8 degrees centigrade. Both were slightly ahead of 1990 as the warmest year since record keeping began in the mid-1880s. Dr James Hansen, director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies argues that the burning of coal, petroleum products and wood are causing the global warming.

Source: Evening Herald, Dublin

SPIELBERG'S MIB'S.

Steven Spielberg may have lost out on the Roswell Alien Autopsy Footage hype, but he has not been idle. He's been kept very busy in fact with a new movie in production. In true Spielberg manner it has as its theme MIBs more popularly known as Men In Black. Described mainly as a fantasy-adventure movie, it has the usual amount of intrigue and dark-government agent stuff that is normally associated with MIBs. The stars are Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones who play two special cops from an elite security agency. Their mission is to keep a watchful eye on some misbehaving Aliens who are on a visit to Earth. Jones' character is that of a "grizzled veteran" who does not seem to be anyway interested in the 'unusual' investigations which they're assigned to on a supernatural beat. Smith's character, however is new to the job and may or may not believe that what they are investigating is real. The concept for the film originates from a shortlived 1991 Comic Book of the same name. The film rights to the book were purchased by Columbia Pictures in 1992. Already it

sounds too familiar, almost like Spielberg's answer to the X-Files. Still it will be some time before we see it over here so we'll reserve comment until then.

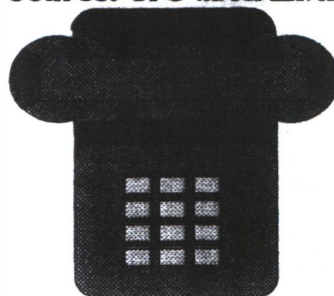
"VISITORS OF THE NIGHT".

There seems to be no end to the amount of TV series' etc on UFOlogy especially ones on the Abduction theme. The latest from America is one called "Visitors of the Night" which was aired recently by the NBC Network. It tells the story of a woman(played by Markie Post) whose memories of childhood Alien encounter experiences are recalled just as she begins to realize that her teenage daughter (played by Candace Cameron) is having some close encounters of her own. The reaction from some members of the UFO community have been mixed with some liking it and some not. Again, like the MIBs, it will probably be a year or two before it reaches this side of the world.

UFOS DOWN UNDER:

One evening, in July 1995, UFOs were observed in the South Australian city of Whyalla. The Melbourne Herald reported that a four-hour "light-show" of UFOs was seen by 6 Police Officers, a Metropolitan Fire Service Crew and 100 residents of Whyalla. The Police Officers described seeing a series of "very, very large red stars" which hovered in the air and rose at 1.5km in the sky. At the same time, more than 100 callers to the police said that they too saw lights coming together, flying in opposite directions, and lifting off the ground.

Source: UFO MAGAZINE (AMERICAN).



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WELCOME TO THE SPACE HOTEL:

Yes, by the year 2020 you could be checking in to the first space hotel. In fact it brings a whole new meaning to taking the weight off your feet.

Japan's giant Shimizu corporation plans to start construction in the first decade of the 21st century. Guests will be able to choose whether they want to sleep in weightless conditions, or take advantage of the artificial gravity provided by spinning the upper ring of the station. A winged "spaceplane" will deliver visitors, who will need a few days' training first. They will fly out in 80-seaters to "Pacific Space Port".

TECHNOLOGY!

Three years ago a huge gun capable of blasting probes into space was tested by American scientists in a remote part of California. If it is successful, the gun could launch space probes for a 50th of the cost of using the space shuttle. Known as SHARP (the Super High Altitude Research Project) which was built by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, gun can propel a projectile that weighs five kilograms at more than 14,000 kilometres an hour - sending it soaring 450 km above the earth. More than 100 years ago author Jules Verne imagined men being fired towards the moon by a huge cannon. But scientists have long since dismissed the idea. However, although no astronaut could survive being launched from the 130-metre gun, shock-proofed electronic components could. The "two-stage light gas" gun consists of two long barrels that meet at right angles in a 40-tonne pressure chamber. A "pump" 80 metres long contains a piston with methane gas on one side and hydrogen (a rapidly expanding "light" gas) on the other. When the methane ignites, the piston shoots down the barrel and crushes the hydrogen to colossal pressures of about 50,000 tonnes per square metre. The hydrogen bursts into the 50-metre launch barrel, where its rapid expansion blasts the projectile out at huge speed. In the first

experiments, the gun has been lying horizontal, but the project scientists plan to recline to Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. They will build a huge gantry, enabling the launch tube to hurl projectiles high over the Pacific. All being well, the Project scientists hope to build a gun costing \$4 billion. (Dollars).

MOIRA McGHEE:

The Director and Team of IUFOPRA, would like to wish Moira. our Contact from 'Down Under', who was in Hospital, a speedy recovery to good health. Keep up the good work, Moira.

**"PROMOTE PEACE IN OUR WAR
TORN WORLD BEFORE ALIENS
VISITORS PUT OUR HUMAN
RACE TO THE TEST !"**

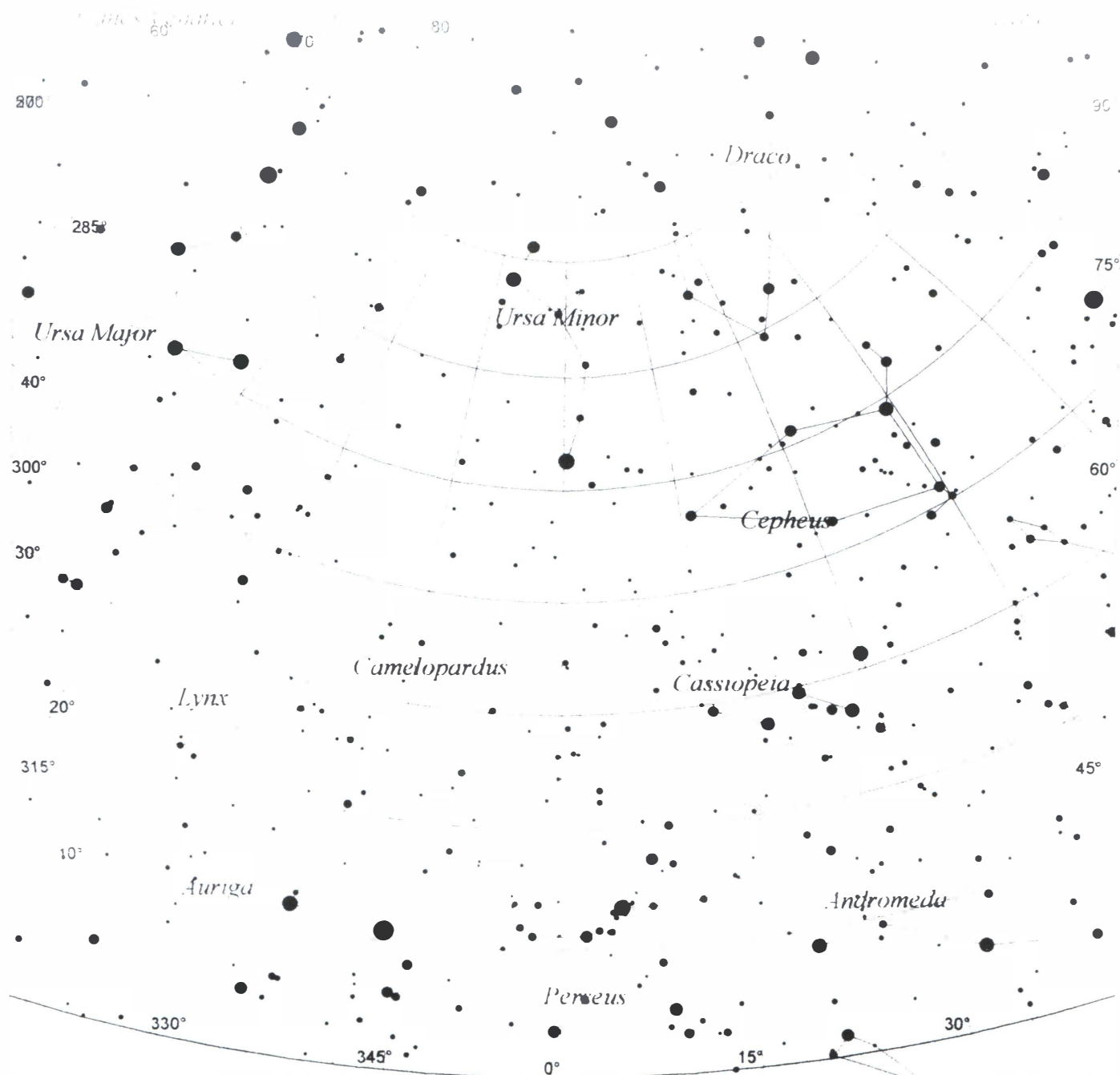


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**See 3 daily Star Charts and Planet
Data overleaf.**

Starchart(Dublin Facing Nth) 23.45Hrs 30/05/1996.



STARS

- <1 · >5.5
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

SYMBOLS

- ☄ Comet
- ◊ Asteroid
- ☄ Galaxy
- ☄ Open Cluster
- ☄ Bright Nebula
- ⊕ Globular Cluster
- ☄ Planetary Nebula
- ☄ Quasar
- ☄ Other Object

Local Time: 23:45:00 30-May-1996

UTC: 23:45:00 30-May-1996

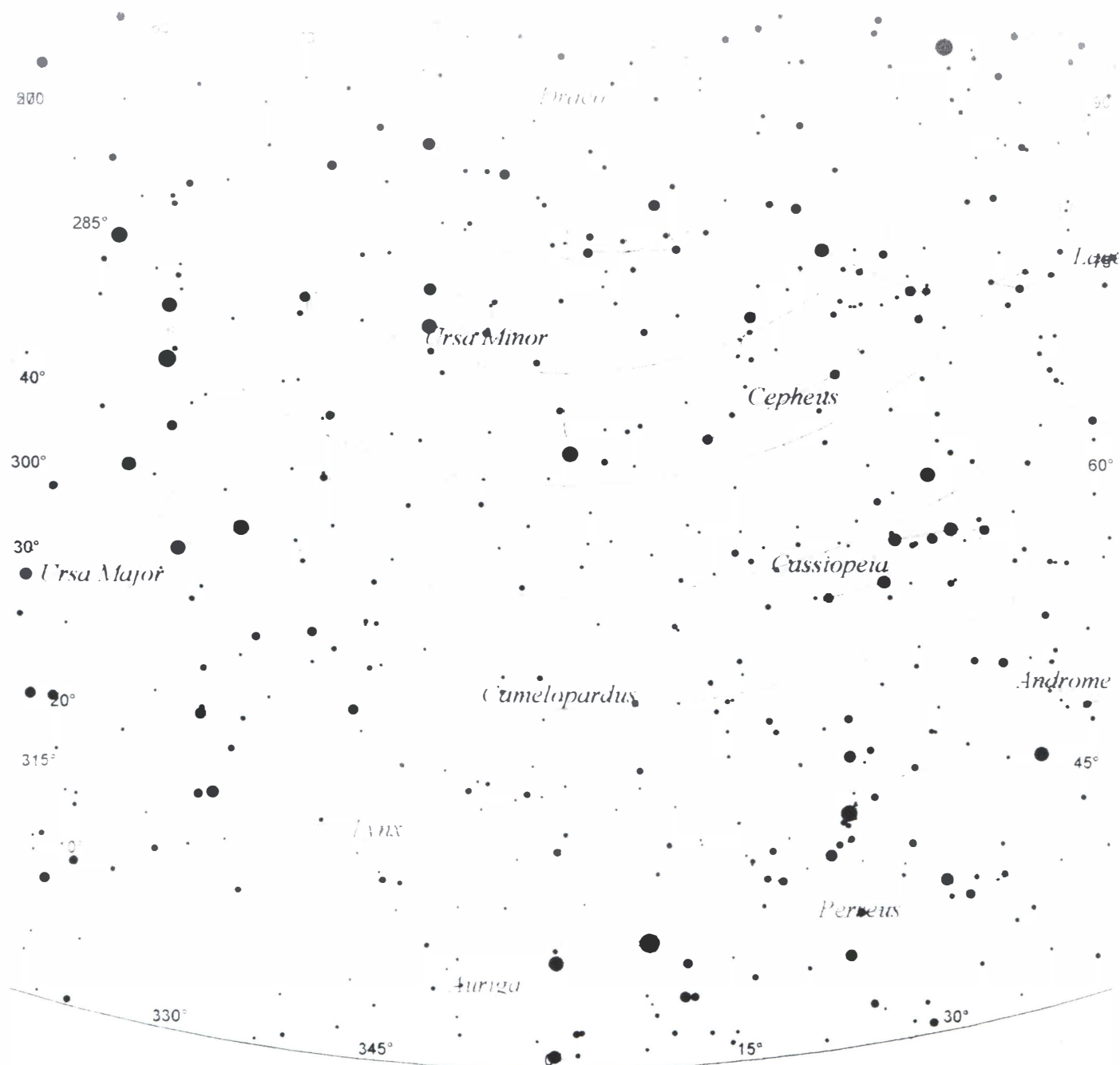
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Location: 53° 19' 48" N 6° 15' 0" W Centre Az: 0.0° Alt: 45.0° Field: 90.0°

Julian Day: 2450234.4896

This map was printed by an UNREGISTERED copy of SkyMap 3.0

Starchart(Dublin Facing Nth) 23.45Hrs 30/06/1996.



STARS	
●	<1
●	2
●	3
●	4
●	5
•	>5.5

SYMBOLS	
☄	Comet
♁	Asteroid
☐	Galaxy
○	Open Cluster
☄	Bright Nebula
●	Globular Cluster
☐	Planetary Nebula
☐	Quasar
☐	Other Object

Local Time: 23:45:00 30-Jun-1996

UTC: 23:45:00 30-Jun-1996

Sidereal Time: 17:57:15

Location: 53° 19' 48" N 6° 15' 0" W Centre Az: 0 0° Alt: 45.0° Field: 90.0°

Julian Day: 2450265.4896

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NEB-

IF ANY OF OUR MEMBERS OWN INTEL

PENTIUM 386 486 COMPUTERS

AND ARE ON THE E-MAIL AND OR FAX.

LETS HEAR FROM YOU. USE YOUR FLOPPY

DISKS TO FAX OR E-MAIL

YOUR REPORTS.

